

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR MARCH 4-5 TC MEETING

REF: A) OECD 02483 B) STATE 023968

1. TRADITIONAL INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS DURING FIRST PART OF TC MEETING ARE INCLUDED IN AGENDA REPORTED IN REF A AS ITEM B: IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELD OF TRADE POLICY. MISSION HAS JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM TC CHAIRMAN HERMES (TD 4999, COPY BEING AIRMAILED TO GLITMAN) SUGGESTING THAT THE MAIN THEME OF MARCH 4 INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SHOULD BE THE MAY 1974 DECLARATION. EXCHANGE COULD OF COURSE EXTEND TO ANY OTHER MATTERS WHICH A DELEGATE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE DISCUSSED, AND HERMES SUGGESTS MTN MIGHT ALSO BE TAKEN UP. EAST-WEST TRADE COULD BE ANOTHER POSSIBLE SUBJECT (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS).

2. RE DECLARATION, HERMES LETTER SAYS PURPOSE OF MARCH 4 DISCUSSION WOULD BE TO ASSESS ROLE BEING PLAYED BY TRADE PLEDGE AND WHAT EXTENSIONS OF IT MIGHT BE FORESEEN. KEY QUESTION POSED IS WHETHER DECLARATION SHOULD SIMPLY BE EXTENDED OR WHETHER SCOPE SHOULD BE MODIFIED, BROADENED, OR MADE MORE PRECISE. HERMES SEES MAIN ISSUE AS

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INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN SEPARATING TRADE PROBLEMS DUE

TO ENERGY CRISIS FROM THOSE ARISING FROM OTHER CAUSES AND GROWING IMPORTANCE OF SECTORAL MEASURES, CURRENTLY IN "GREY AREA" UNDER DECLARATION. HE SUGGESTS TC MIGHT DISCUSS POSSIBILITY AND CONTENT OF INCREASED COOPERATION AS REGARDS SECTORAL PROBLEMS, IN PARTICULAR HOW TO AVOID EXTENSION OF RECOURSE TO SECTORAL IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH TC AGENDA MAY SEEM LONG, VERY FEW ITEMS WILL INVOLVE DISCUSSION OF ANY LENGTH OR SUBSTANCE. ITEMS UNDER G (WORK IN PROGRESS) WILL BE SIMPLE REPORTS OR REMINDERS OF WORK COMING UP. EXPORT CREDITS WILL NOT ACTUALLY BE DISCUSSED UNLESS AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON DRAFT LOCAL COST STANDARD BEFORE MEETING. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT ANY SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF PREFERENCES SINCE WORKING PARTY WILL BE MEETING ONLY FEW DAYS PRIOR TO TC. NO WORK HAS BEEN DONE ON ITEM D(2) SINCE LAST TC MEETING SINCE TCWP HAS BEEN PREOCCUPIED WITH PREPARATIONS FOR UNCTAD MEETINGS. WAY WOULD SEEM CLEAR FOR TC TO SPEND MOST OF TIME DEVOTED TO FORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON RESULTS OF UNCTAD COMMODITY COMMITTEE SESSION AND EXPORT CONTROLS. WITH RESPECT TO LATTER, IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE REMAINS CONSIDERABLE DIVERGENCY OF VIEWS ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS AND TCWP WILL NEED TO CONTINUE WORK UNDER EXISTING MANDATE. (SEE SEPTEL ON FEB. 3-4 MEETING.)

KATZ

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